# NATURAL NEWS

**The Field Museum**
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
May 1, 1998


*Special noon slide show and talk*
Thursday, May 7
Zoology Classroom

**The "Pristine Landscapes" of the Bolivian Amazon: An Archaeological Perspective on Human Impact on the Environment**

by Clark L. Erickson, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Erickson will talk about his work in the Bolivian Amazon, where efforts are being made to save the environment from destruction caused by rural development and poor management practices. These landscapes are often considered by conservationists and environmental groups to be classic examples of "pristine" and "natural" environments, yet the savannas, gallery forests, and forest islands of the Bolivian Amazon have already been radically transformed by generations of prehispanic farmers. Erickson will show slides of experimental raised fields rebuilt by local communities in Bolivia, and discuss how these new fields are helping us to understand the ancient systems of earthworks, raised fields and earthen causeways that dominate the Amazonian landscape.

Sponsored by the Anthropology Department and CCUC.

**WHAT MUSEUM HIGH SCHOOL?**

Heard anything? Rumors, myths, mutterings? Don't rely on the gossip, come and find out what's really going on! All staff are invited to attend an information session on the plans in progress for the new Museum High School, a collaboration of the Museum and the Golden Apple Foundation. Director of Education **Mary Ellen Munley** will tell all:

MONDAY, MAY 4, 9:00 a.m.,
Montgomery Ward Hall

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 12:00 noon,
Zoology Classroom.

Come and listen to what we have planned!!

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***Congratulations*** to **Maureen Ransom** of Education on being invited to teach an "Introduction to Anthropology" class at DePaul University this semester. Her innovative work on the new **Living Together** exhibit brought her to the attention of Robert Rotenberg from the University who initiated the invitation. This work will allow Maureen to bring together her academic background and museum object-based learning skills for a unique teaching experience.

## *Thank you!*

**Many people made the first days of *Assignment: Rescue* a tremendous success.**

Thanks to the heroic efforts of **Neil Keliher, David Layman, Nel Fetherling**, and **Lori Walsh,** *Assignment: Rescue* opened to a terrific press preview last Friday hosted by the Public Relations Department. The following Exhibits Department staff created this extremely intricate exhibit in a very short amount of time: **April Blazevic, Paul Brunsvold, George Chavez, Charlie Cho, Thomas Czajkowski, Russ Flack, Heather Graff, Paula Horecny, Elizabeth Kantorski, Lance Kirsch, Karen Olenski, Michael Paha, John Petreikis, Susan Phillips, Katherine Stransky, Beth Tanner, Matthew Timms, Dirk Urban,** and **Thatcher Waller.**

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The 1998 A. Watson Armour III Spring Symposium "Combining molecular and paleontological data: A twofold approach for documenting major evolutionary patterns" was held Saturday, April 25, in Simpson Theater. Thirty-seven institutions from throughout North America were represented among the 192 official registrants. Organized by Assistant Curators **John Bates** (Zoology) and **Peter Wagner** (Geology) and coordinated by **Pam Austin,** the single day session included ten presentations on topics ranging from novel approaches for the analysis of molecular and paleontological data, to the Cambrian explosion and the evolution of the fauna of Madagascar. Included were presentations highlighting Field Museum research on the evolution of gastropods (Associate Curator **Rüdiger Bieler**, Zoology, in collaboration with Zoology Research Associate **Tim Collins** and Tim Rawlings of Florida International University), Crocodiles (**Chris Brochu**, post doctoral fellow, Geology), mammalian carnivores (Curator **John Flynn** and Post Doctoral Fellow **Michael Nedbal**, Geology), and Malagasy mammals (Research Associate **Anne Yoder**, Zoology). Thanks to all Museum staff and students who helped to make this event such a success.

CHANGE IN HOURS

## The Children's Store

Effective Monday, May 4, 1998

Daily hours will be 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; weekend hours will be 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

These hours will continue through May.

**Geraldine "Gerry" Havranek** is now at home recovering from her recent stay in the hospital. She went home April 25. Gerry sends a big THANK YOU for all of the flowers, cards and well wishes. She attributes her quick recovery to the kind thoughts and prayers from The Field Museum staff.

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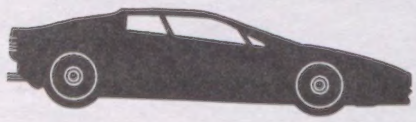
**PARKING REMINDER!!**

The summer parking schedule went into effect on Friday, May1, 1998. No monthly hang tags or daily employee passes will be allowed to park in the south east Museum lot. All staff must park in the east Soldier Field lot - south of ramp forty-two only.



Field Museum Scientists Partner with Exhibits Department
To Publish Compelling New Book

# Vanishing Treasures of the Philippine Rain Forest

## Publication date: May 29, 1998

"There are few places on Earth that are richer in biological wonderments, and more sorely beleaguered, than the Philippines. Heaney and Regalado's *Vanishing Treasures* shows us both sides of that conundrum—the wealth of species and ecosystems at stake, and the desperate human pressures that threaten them. It's a beguiling, wise, and very valuable book."

David Quammen, author of *The Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions* and *Wild Thoughts from Wild Places*

In June 1998, The Field Museum will begin the citywide celebration of the Philippine Centennial with the opening of two exhibits: **Voyage of a Nation: The Philippines**, featuring as many as 150 cultural artifacts; and **Vanishing Treasures of the Philippine Rain Forest**, highlighting the rare animals found only in the Philippines and the ecological crisis that threatens their future.

In conjunction with these exhibits, The Field Museum is publishing *Vanishing Treasures of the Philippine Rain Forest*, written by Dr. Lawrence R. Heaney, Associate Curator and Head of the Division of Mammals and Dr. Jacinto C. Regalado, Research Associate in the Department of Botany.

The 96-page book features full-color photographs and illustrations of birds, mammals, plants and the rain forest habitats in which they live and recommends conservation efforts that can help preserve the natural biodiversity of the islands.

Submitted by Sophia Shaw, Exhibits

Individuals may purchase the book in the Museum Store in early June. Staff and volunteers will receive the staff discount.

Departmental orders will be facilitated by Eve Kurek, Finance, x543. **Please attach a completed and authorized expense transfer form and submit it to Eve.**

Departmental rate: $10.00—a 58% savings off the cover price of $24.00

You will be notified when your books are available to be picked up in the Finance Department.

# *Thanks, mates!*

Inspiring People

**Mary Ellen Munley, Dan Brinkmeier, and Beth Crownover sincerely thank all the Museum staff that made last week's British Airways "Inspiring People" event such an incredible success. With your help, nearly 400 British Airways executives and more than 450 members of the Chicago Children's Choir had a fantastic day of creativity and learning. The ideas they shared together will help us to produce a series of Harris loan materials that will inspire a new generation of Chicago's children for years to come.**

**Thanks to:**

**Visitor Services**
**Security**
**Special Events**
**Education Department**
**Graphic Design**
**Engineering**
**Security**
**Housekeeping**

***And an extra special thanks goes out to—***

**The folks from Imagine Chicago, and all the Museum staff and education volunteers who served as activity facilitators or guides who worked so hard on the day of the event, including interns Seth Mulliken and Donovan Tadewald. Good job, everyone!**

1998

# May

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 BLOPEZ-Rice 6:00pm-9:00pm | 2 JThymes-SFH 9:00am 2"00pm<br>Fire vs Washngton-7pm |
| 3 History Fair-JST 8:00am-5:00pm<br>McDonalds – SFH/Rice 6:00pm-10:00pm 70-100<br>DWhite-Rice/Mam.Hall 6:30-Noon<br>***Supermkt Industry Conv- McCormick Pl*** | 4 Chg Hang Gliding Club-LHI-7-9pm<br>Myco SocietyLHII-6-11pm<br>***SupermktIndustry Conv-McCormick Pl*** | 5<br>***Supermkt Industry Conv-McCormick Pl*** | 6 Akashuba-Rice 10:00am-2:00pm | 7 SWebb-Lecture-JST 5:00pm-9:00pm | 8 Kwebber-Overnight | 9 Chicago Abused Women Coal – SFH 7:00pm-12:00am 300<br>UIC-GSB-JST 2:00pm-6:00pm<br>Pacific Island Celeb-11am- |
| 10<br>Pacific Island Celebration-SFH 11am-3pm | 11 American Finan.--SFH 6:30PM-9:30PM 500<br>Primitive Art Society-LHI-7:30-10pm<br>Nature Camera Club-LHII-7:30-10:30pm | 12 Robert Baird-SFH 6:00pm 400 | 13Women's Aux Jewish Comm-Founders Rm-10am-12pm | 14 Intervention-JST 12:00pm-4:00pm 400 | 15 Cooper & Lybrand- SFH/JST 6:00pm-10:00pm 300 | 16 National Rest. Asso. –SFH 5:30-8pm Amer Acad. Arts-Fdrs Rm-9am-2pm<br>PLaraba-Volunteer Training-9:00am-3:00pm<br>***National Restaurant E McCorm Pl*** |
| 17 New Exhibit Preview-Live Butterflies<br>SKaruscha-JST 12:00pm-6:00pm<br>***National Restaurant Expo-McCormick Pl*** | 18 New Exhibit Preview-Live Butterflies<br>SVandenbosch-SFH 4:00pm-8:00pm<br>Chg Orth Society-LHII-7-10pm<br>Chg Mountaineering Club-7-10pm<br>***National Restaurant Expo-McCormick Pl*** | 19 Special Events Preview Living Colors Breakfast- SFH<br>Svandenbosch-SFH/Rice 4:30pm-10:00pm Kwebber-JST 1:00-12:00am<br>***National Restaurant Expo-McCormick Pl*** | 20 New Exhibit Preview-Live Butterflies<br>Svandenbosch-SFH 4:30pm-8:30pm<br>UPN-All Day-JST –set-up<br>Fire vs LA-7:30pm<br>***National Restaurant Expo-McCormick Pl*** | 21 III College of Optometry-SFH 300 6:00pm-10:00pm<br>UPN-Rice/JST 8:30am-5:00pm<br>Press Preview-Outside-Butterflies | 22 Kwebber-Overnight New Exhibit Preview-Live Butterflies<br>Press Preview(Rain Date)-10:00am | 23 Croft Wedding- SFH<br>SWebb-Rice 10:00am-1:00pm<br>Fire vs Colorado-7:00pm |
| 24 POW WOW-Museum Campus<br>All Museums SFH Gjewell-JST 8:30-12:00am Fire vs Colorado-7pm | 25 **MEMORIAL DAY**<br>***International POW WOW-McCormick Pl*** | 26 MMunley-SFH 5:00pm-1:00am<br>***International POW WOW-McCormick Pl*** | 27 Executive Club-Rice 100<br>Chg Herp Society-LHI-7:30-10pm<br>T-Special Events-SFH<br>***International POW WOW-McCormick Pl*** | 28 Christo Key –SFH 6:00pm-11:00pm 1000<br>Kwebber-JST 6:00pm-8:00pm | 29 Centennial Luncheon 11:00am-2:00pm-SFH<br>Press Preview-Outside 9-12:00 | 30 Etoussaint-JST 5:00pm-10:00pm<br>***Book Expo-McCormic*** |
| 31 ATrzyna-SFH 9am-5pm<br>Kwebber-JST 12:00pm-8:00pm<br>Country Music Fest -T | | | | | | |

## *MORE* NEW VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

The terrific people listed below joined the Museum volunteer corps during March and April. While many are involved in Education Department activities, these twenty-eight volunteers are serving in ten different departments. We have had over 150 new volunteers since the beginning of the school year!

There will be more to report soon who are in training for **Assignment Rescue, T-Rex Prep Lab,** and **Living Colors: A Butterfly Garden.**

**Donald Bailey,** Visitor Services
**Mitch Bixby,** Education
**Laurie J. Cooper,** Education
**Irving Diamond,** Computer Services
**Catherine A. Esquivel,** Education
**Ben Fullett,** Education
**Regina Garcia,** Mammals
**Jessica Gulley,** Visitor Services & Education
**Michelynn Hassert,** Invertebrates
**Hayley Kahn,** Fishes
**Dianne Luhmann,** Botany
**Veronica Mayer,** Education
**Andrea Medina,** Education
**Maryann Mills,** Education
**Jennifer Mitol,** Education
**Carol Moy,** Anthropology
**Sara Murphy,** Amphibians & Reptiles
**Barbara Russi,** Anthropology
**Jane Rixe,** Education
**Maki Sasaki,** Anthropology
**Yuka Sato,** Education
**Amy Strauss,** Education
**Lauri Sugerman,** Education
**Jason Ticus,** Museum Services
**Nicole Truesdell,** Education
**Christine, Vittoe,** Invertebrates
**Amy Woodward,** Anthropology
**Kathryn Young,** Botany

## SURVEY OF THE FUNGI OF COSTA RICA PROGRESSES

**Greg Mueller** and **Sabine Huhndorf** (Botany) participated in an international workshop held in San José, Costa Rica that initiated a coordinated comprehensive survey of selected groups of fungi that occur in Costa Rica. The survey is part of the Costa Rican National Biodiversity Survey that is funded through grants from the World Bank, the Netherlands, and NORAD (the Norwegian equivalent to US A.I.D.). This seven-year study will focus on the macrofungi (mushrooms, bracket fungi, and related fungi), wood and litter inhabiting Ascomycetes, lichenized fungi, forest pathogens, and endomycorrhizal fungi that occur in five conservation areas in the country. These conservation areas include most of the forest types in the country, ranging from the dry forests in the northwest to the rain forests of the OSA Peninsula. Greg co-organized the workshop with Milagro Mata (Costa Rican National Biodiversity Institute, INBio and Research Associate in Botany) and led the discussions.

*Your scent may be poisonous* – at least to allergy sufferers. Please be courteous to those already on sensor overload from all the pollen, mold and dust in the air – don't add your scent too. (In particular, please do not wear perfume into the Security Equipment Office, where the new IDs are being made. A whiff can knock out valued employees for days.) Thanks.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon – preferably by Email in either Word or WordPerfect. Thanks.

# Construction Update

In preparation for the "re-opening" of The Field Museum in conjunction with the opening of the Museum Campus, many improvements are being made in the public areas. Below is a summary of the status of some of them. If you want more detail or have further questions, please call the "contact" departments.

| **Project** | **Contact Department** | **Status** | **Scheduled Completion** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grainger Hall | Exhibits | Construction & Installation | May 19 |
| Hall 10 (Northwest Coast) | Exhibits | Design & preliminary restoration | May 29 |
| McDonald's Geology Prep Lab | Exhibits | Construction | May 22 |
| Corner Bakery | Aux. Services & FP&O | Demolition/ Construction | Early July |
| North Entrance for Corner Bakery | FP&O | Design | Summer 1998 |
| Museum Store | Aux. Services & FP&O | Construction | May 19 |
| McDonald's Renovation/Terrace | Aux. Services & FP&O | Design/ Review | Summer 1998 |
| Washroom (McDonald's) Renovation | FP&O | Construction | May 22 |
| South Entrance | FP&O | Design review – construction to begin by Labor Day | TBD |